IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended) In a method for use in conjunction with a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus, said apparatus comprising a source of an extinguishing medium, pump means, and means for passing at least a proportion of the medium to at least one nozzle, the improvements comprising:

re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium which is not passed to the nozzle back to a suction side of the pump means; and

passing at least some of the re-circulated extinguishing medium into a discharge pipe ~~and any remaining re-circulated extinguishing medium to the pump means (3)~~.

2. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the flow into the discharge pipe is restricted.

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the medium being re-circulated is passed into the discharge pipe if the temperature of the medium reaches a set value.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the passage into the discharge pipe is opened and/or closed by means of a valve element controlled on the basis of the temperature of the medium.

5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the flow rate of the medium being re-circulated is reduced when the flow rate of the extinguishing medium supplied to the nozzles is increased.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the flow rate of the medium being re-circulated is increased when the flow rate of the extinguishing medium supplied to the nozzles is reduced.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a water-based liquid.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is re-circulated at a pressure of 1-300 bar.

9. (currently amended) In a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus comprising a source of an extinguishing medium, pump means, and means for conducting at least some of the extinguishing medium to at least one nozzle, the improvements comprising:

means for re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium from a pressure side of the pump means to a suction side of the pump means; and

means for passing at least some of the extinguishing medium being re-circulated into a discharge pipe ~~and any remaining extinguishing medium being re-circulated into the pump means~~.

10. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the pump means is at least one of a constant-volume pump or a piston pump.

11. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the means for recirculating comprises a passage from the pressure side of the pump means to its suction side, said passage being provided with a pressure valve.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the apparatus comprises a valve element for opening passage into the discharge pipe.

13. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the apparatus comprises means for opening and/or closing the valve element on the basis of the temperature of the medium.

14. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the pump means is a 1-300 bar pressure pump.

15. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the discharge pipe is provided with a throttle element.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the passage is provided with a check valve to prevent the admission of the medium being pumped from the suction side of the pump directly into the discharge pipe.

17. (new) In a method for use in conjunction with a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus, said apparatus comprising a source of an extinguishing medium, pump means, and means for passing at least a proportion of the medium to at least one nozzle, the improvements comprising:

re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium which is not passed to the nozzle back to a suction side of the pump means; and

passing at least some of the re-circulated extinguishing medium into a discharge pipe,

wherein the extinguishing medium being re-circulated back to the suction side of the pump means is mixed with extinguishing medium obtained from the source to prevent excessive heating of the extinguishing medium being re-circulated.